



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

4 OCT 2001

HQ AFOSI/SCR
P.O. Box 2218
Waldorf, MD 20604-2218

Mr. John Young
CRYPTOME
251 West 89th Street
Suite 6E
New York, New York 10024

Dear Mr. Young

This is in response to your 29 March 2001 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information concerning Australian Intelligence Services, ZF400005W. Your request was referred to us from the Department of the Army. AFOSI FOIA # 801 was assigned to this request. We received your request on 29 June 2001.

Portions of the information requested are exempt from disclosure to you. We have inserted notations in the attached documents to identify the portions deleted and the reasons therefore. The notations are explained as follows:

a. "b2" pertains to information relating to the internal personnel rules and practices of AFOSI or the Air Force. The authority for this exemption may be found in the United States Code, Title 5, Section 552(b)(2).

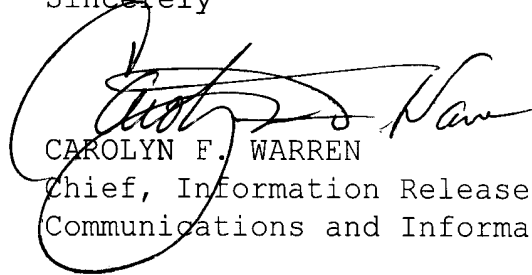
b. "b7C" pertains to information which, if disclosed to the public, could reasonably be expected to result in an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. We also withheld the names of our Special Agents so that they would not be subject to harassment and annoyance in the conduct of their official duties and to increase their security in later assignments. The authority for this exemption may be found in the United States Code Title 5, Section 552(b)(7)(C).

Should you decide that an appeal to this decision is necessary, you must write to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 days from the date of this letter. Include in the appeal your reasons for reconsideration and attach a **copy of this letter**. Your letter and envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Address your letter as follows:

Secretary of the Air Force
Thru: AFOSI/SCR
P.O. Box 2218
Waldorf, MD 20604-2218

If you have any questions concerning your request please feel free to contact me at (301) 870-1100. Your patience is appreciated.

Sincerely



CAROLYN F. WARREN

Chief, Information Release Division
Communications and Information Directorate

1 Attachment:
Cy of AFOSI Referred Information -
Less Exemptions

73072/00498

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53087

RTTEZYUW RUMCSBA0005 058: 00-EEEE-TRUBGFA

ZNY EEEEE
R 272245Z FEB 73

FM AFOSI DIST 51 BANGKOK THAI
TO RUEBGFA/AFOSI WASH DC/IVOP
RUHHABA/AFOSI HICKAM AFB HI/IVP
BT

DSTR: CJCS(01) DJS(03) J3(12) J5(05)
NMCC(01) SECDEF(07) ASD/ISA(10)
STATE(01) DIA(20) CIA(04) CSA(01) CNO
CSAF(01) CMC(01) NIC(01) NSI(01)
FILE(01)(71)JRB/TT

UNCLAS E F T O FOUO 51D CI
THIS IS IIR NR: 1 656 0031 73

1. AUSTRALIA
2. UNKNOWN ENTITY: AUSTRALIAN ESPIONAGE NETWORK IN ASIA
3. N/A
4. 14-18 FEB 73
5. BANGKOK, THAILAND, 15-18 FEB 73
6. [REDACTED]
7. SEE ITEM 15
8. 1 656 0031 73
9. 26 FEB 73
10. 4
11. DIRM 6A2
12. AFOSI DIST 51, BANGKOK, THAILAND 51D 49-801
13. SA [REDACTED] AFOSI DIST 51, BANGKOK, THAILAND

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14. [REDACTED] COL, USAF, DISTRICT COMMANDER
15. DETAILS:

A. THE 15 FEB 73 ISSUE OF THE NATION, AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ON PAGE 1 ENTITLED, "AUSTRALIAN SPY UNIT BREAKS THAILAND'S CODE," A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE IS APPENDED AS ATTACHMENT 1, AND THE TEXT IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE SIGNALS DIVISION (DSD), "A HIGHLY SECRET BRANCH OF THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT," WHICH IS STATIONED IN SINGAPORE, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE CODES OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, CHINA, AND INDOCHINA SINCE 1960. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID THAILAND WAS AWARE OF THESE ACTIVITIES AND HAD DISPATCHED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING INFORMATION IN THE PAST. SOME OF THE INTERCEPTED INFORMATION HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN EXCHANGED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

B. THE 16 FEB 73 ISSUE OF THE NATION CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ON PAGE 1 ENTITLED, "DISCLAIMER," THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE IS QUOTED VERBATIM AS FOLLOWS:

"THE FOREIGN MINISTRY YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED IT HAS NO COMMENT ON THE NATION'S REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONDUCTING RADIO MONITOR-

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ING ACTIVITIES AGAINST THAILAND AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT DISCLAIMED A REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN STATING THAT THAILAND WAS WELL AWARE OF SUCH ACTIONS AND OFTEN FED MISINFORMATION INTO ITS DAILY EMBASSY DISPATCH."

C. THE 18-24 FEB 73 ISSUE OF THE ASIAN, A WEEKLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK, CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 ENTITLED, "CLOAK'S OFF THE HIDDEN EARS," A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE IS APPENDED AS ATTACHMENT 2, AND THE TEXT IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT LOCATED IN SINGAPORE IS TO BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY AND RELOCATED IN AUSTRALIA. SINGAPORE DID NOT "OFFICIALLY" KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS UNIT, ALTHOUGH BOTH ITS EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO CONCEAL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER DELIBERATELY LEAKED NEWS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS UNIT TO AVOID AN AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE CONCERNING THE STATIONING OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY UNITS OVERSEAS.

COMMENTS OF THE APPROVING OFFICER:

THIS DISTRICT OFFICE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CONCERNING AN AUSTRALIAN ESPIONAGE NETWORK IN ASIA (AIR, 1 656 0208 72; 51049-801, DTD 10 NOV 72).

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SUFFICIENT DATA OR BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE FILES OF THIS DISTRICT TO AFFORD EVALUATION AND COMMENTS ON THE INFORMATION REPORTED ABOVE.

16. AFOSI/IVOAP
AFOSI/IVP
DISTRIBUTION E
FILE (CE-1)

17. N/A

18. A. ARTICLE FROM THE NATION, 15 FEB 73

B. ARTICLE FROM THE ASIAN, 18-24 FEB 73

COPIES OF ATTACHMENTS ARE BEING FORWARDED TO HQ AFOSI/IVOA AND IVP AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED AGENCIES. LOCAL DISTRIBUTEES MAY OBTAIN COPIES DIRECTLY FROM AFOSI DIST 51.

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NOTE: This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794. The transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROL MARKINGS

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on the basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: Australia

8. REPORT NUMBER: 1 656 0208 72

2. SUBJECT: UNKNOWN ENTITY:
Espionage Network

9. DATE OF REPORT: 10 November 1972

10. NO. OF PAGES: 1

3. ISC NUMBER:

11. REFERENCES: DIRM 6A2

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 3 November 1972

12. ORIGINATOR: AFOSI Dist 51, Bangkok,
Thailand: 51D49-801

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: Bangkok, Thailand
3 November 1972

13. PREPARED BY: SA [REDACTED]
AFOSI District 51,
Bangkok, Thailand

6. EVALUATION: SOURCE [REDACTED] INFORMATION [REDACTED]

14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: [REDACTED] USAF
Col, USAF
Commander

7. SOURCE: The Bangkok Post newspaper

15. SUMMARY:

(Leave Blank)

The 3 Nov 72 issue of a Bangkok daily English language newspaper contained an article concerning an Australian espionage network in Asia.

The 3 Nov 72 issue of The Bangkok Post, an English language newspaper, contained an article entitled, "Aust operating spy network in Asia - ex member". The body of the article is quoted verbatim as follows:

"A secret Australian espionage organisation has been operating for years in Asia and has been responsible for many unexplained incidents, a former Army Intelligence officer said on television here. (Australia)

Former [REDACTED] now a television journalist, said he spent four years in the organisation during the early stages of the Vietnam war.

[REDACTED] said the special service 'was the cause of a lot of accidents to a lot of people, especially along the Chinese border'.

Recruits were often university graduates who were recruited on an 'old boy'

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:

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File (CE-1) 2

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17. DOWNGRADING DATA:

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UNITED STATES ARMY FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

DD FORM 1396
1 SEP 62

CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROL MARKINGS

REPLACES DA FORM 1049, 1 AUG 66,
OPNAV FORM 3820 (REV 10-61),
AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE
USED UNTIL 1 JAN 68.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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REPORT NO. 1 656 0208 72
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
ORIGINATOR AFOSI District 51,
Bangkok, Thailand

basis and received part of their training in London from the British Intelligence Service, MI-6, he said.

was interviewed after the Sydney Daily Telegraph published a front page article about the service, which it claimed had never been publicly acknowledged by the Australian Government although the network was established in 1949.

An article by the newspaper's political correspondent, said the espionage service was quite separate from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, which had its own chain of foreign agents.

The special service was not part of the joint intelligence organisation centred in the Defence Department in Canberra.

said agents of the special organisation were posted overseas to Australian diplomatic missions and they then appointed their own agents from the local population in Asia.

said in the television interview that the special service was very expensive to run but its efficiency was very low. The service operated mainly in Asia 'where almost anything would be licensed'.

interviewed on the same program, said most Australian politicians had no knowledge of the special service because there was no 'budget or legislative authority for it.'

COMMENTS OF THE APPROVING OFFICER:

The files of this office do not contain sufficient data or background information to afford further comment on the information contained in the body of this report.

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DD FORM 1396c

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1965 8

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AND DA FORM 500, 1 AUG 50 WHICH
WAS USED UNTIL 1 JAN 63.